

THE DIRECTOR OF  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

National Intelligence Council

15 November 1982

NOTE FOR:

STAT

Thought you might want to know that  
the attached package on narcotics was  
signed by the DCI and sent to the President.  
 and his branch supplied me  
with the data in the enclosure to the DCI's  
letter to the President.

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Dave Gries

Attachment  
As Stated

THE DIRECTOR OF  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

National Intelligence Council

16 November 1982

NOTE FOR: Carlton Turner

SUBJECT : President's Trip to Colombia

Earlier in the month I sent you a draft I had prepared for Mr. Casey regarding the President's trip to Colombia. The draft package including a letter from Casey to the President recommending that he discuss the drug problem with President Betancur. Thought you would be interested to know that Casey sent the letter to the President and also discussed the whole issue personally with Secretary Shultz.

We are making headway.



Dave Gries

Attachment  
As Stated

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National Intelligence Council

15 November 1982

NOTE FOR: Dewey Claridge

SUBJECT : President's Trip to Colombia

The attached is self-explanatory. The DCI signed the letter and sent it to the President last week. He also discussed the subject with Secretary Shultz. This all should be of some benefit.



Dave Gries

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Attachment  
As Stated

SECRET

NIC# 8841-82

THE DIRECTOR OF  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

National Intelligence Council

29 October 1982

NOTE TO: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : David D. Gries  
National Intelligence Officer  
for East Asia

SUBJECT: President's Trip to Colombia

Attached is the memorandum to the President you asked me to prepare. The Strategic Narcotics Branch of OGI provided much of the background information.



David D. Gries

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## Distribution:

Original - Addressee

- 1 - DDCI
- 1 - EXDIR
- 1 - Executive Registry
- 1 - Dr. Carlton Turner  
White House  
Drug Abuse Office
- 1 - C/NIC
- 1 - VC/NIC
- 1 - SA/IA
- 1 - NIO/EA Chrono
- 1 - DDI Registry

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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

With your trip to Colombia in mind, I asked my staff to prepare the enclosed summary of Colombia's involvement in drug trafficking. As you know, Colombia is the primary source of US drug imports.

It would support your Administration's drug abuse program if you could personally emphasize to President Betancur and his associates the importance you attach to US-Colombia cooperation against drug trafficking.

Respectfully yours,

William J. Casey

Enclosure

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Enclosure to Letter to President, dated

SUBJECT: Colombia's Thriving Drug Industry

1. Colombia's drug industry is thriving. Marijuana and cocaine from Colombia still dominate the US market. Moreover, given the enormous price mark-up in the drug trade, major traffickers can afford to lose at least 70 percent of their shipments - an interdiction rate at least four times higher than at present -- before being significantly hurt financially.

- President Betancur appears willing to support US narcotics objectives, but limited GOC resources and the pervasive nature of the problem will prevent the achievement of decisive results.
- In addition, circumstantial evidence leads to the conclusion that in the past Colombia's 15 leading trafficking "families" have enjoyed a measure of government protection. There is as yet no evidence that the newly established government of President Betancur is involved.

2. Colombia will supply 75 percent of the marijuana used in the US in 1982. It is estimated that between 7,700 and 11,300 tons with a "street" value between \$10-15 billion have been delivered annually for the last three years. In addition, Colombia is on the threshold of becoming a major coca-growing country. Traditionally Colombia has grown small amounts of coca for international illicit markets, with Peru and Bolivia supplying up to 95 percent.

3. Colombia's illegal drug trade began in earnest in the mid-1970s and has increased to a multi-billion dollar industry. Exports of marijuana, cocaine, and methaqualone are valued at \$2 billion, FOB Colombia and \$6.4 billion when successfully delivered to foreign markets.

- The marijuana trade has a direct impact on Colombia's economy as farmers will earn \$155 million selling marijuana to dealers and brokers at an average of \$4 per pound.
- Profits are highest in the cocaine trade, but this income is earned by a relatively few individuals, probably no more than 200-300 traffickers who, for the most part, prefer to keep their enormous wealth in safe havens beyond Colombia's borders.

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- Profits from the drug trade have been traced to Florida and Caribbean real estate and to legitimate businesses in the US and Colombia.

4. Narcotics related corruption, violence and crime contribute greatly to a deterioration of Colombia's moral and social fabric. Widespread corruption undermines public confidence in government institutions and their ability to govern effectively. Moreover, daily newspaper accounts of assassinations, kidnappings, and bank robberies as well as reported intimidations of judges and prosecutors fosters a climate of fear and a sense of helplessness.

- Narcotics trafficking also affects Colombia's national security. Numerous Embassy reports indicate that alliances between narcotics traffickers and terrorist and insurgent groups are becoming more frequent. According to reliable sources, certain fronts of the M-19 and FARC have extorted money from coca growers in southeastern Colombia in return for protection or permission to use their territory.

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